

DOCKET: 116979-1005



PATENT 6-28-00

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application Of: Nelson J. Wong, D.D.S., J.D. and  
John W. Montgomery

Serial No.: 09/225,879

Filed: January 5, 1999

For: **Step-Back Eliminating Tapered Dental Cutting Instruments  
for Improved Root Canal Treatment and Method**

RECEIVED  
JUN 27 2000  
TC 3160 MAIL ROOM

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

<p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents &amp; Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on:</p> <p align="center"><u>6-14-00</u></p> <p align="center">Date</p> <p align="center"><u>John W. Montgomery</u></p> <p align="center">John W. Montgomery</p>
---

**AMENDMENT**

This is in response to the office action mailed December 14, 1999 in which Claims 1-4, 9, and 11-14 were rejected and objections were raised to Claims 5-8, 10, and 15 were objected to. This response is being filed with a Request for an Extension of Time to file within three months of the shortened statutory period of time and a check covering the required fee.

IN/THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel Claims 2-4, 9 and 11-13, without prejudice. Kindly rewrite Claims 1, 5, 10, 14 and 15 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) An endodontic cutting instrument comprising:

(a) a cutting portion, including a non-standard taper angle, [which non-standard] comprising a compound curve taper [extends] extending along a predetermined length of a distal cutting portion thereof, and including a standard taper angle, [which] said standard taper angle [extends] extending along the remaining cutting portion to a standard size shank thereof, said non-

31

A